

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 04548 240940Z

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /018 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4166

DIA WASHDC/AA-8 AA-5 IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 4548

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, NI

SUBJECT: ARRIVAL OF DATT, COL L. B. HARLAN

REF: DIA/AA-5 MSG 6332 DTG 220433Z MAY

DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS I FEAR WE HAVE NOT SIGNALLED CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF COLONEL HARLAN'S ARRIVAL FOR OVERLAP WITH COLONEL DAVIS. OVERLAP OF COURSE IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT, BUT IN CASE OF DEFENSE ATTACHE IT IS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROMPT ASSUMPTION OF DUTIES AND MONTHS OF WHEEL SPINNING SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH NIGERIAN MILITARY LEADERS. WE CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATE HARLAN'S SPENDING SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS VAINLY ATTEMPTING GAIN RAPPORT THAT IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY TRANSFERABLE IF HE ARRIVES WEEK BEFORE DAVIS DEPARTS ABOUT JUNE 16. THUS, ARRIVAL DATE SHOULD NOT BECOME A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE BUT ONE OF A PROFESSIONAL IMPERATIVE. HOPE AF/W WILL USE BEST EFFORTS EXPEDITE ISSUANCE OF VISA. REQUEST EARLY ETA SO THAT WE MAY PROCEED MAKE FIRM OVERLAP SCHEDULE. REINHARDT

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